

# George Vanier Catholic School

## September 2019



2782 Dafoe Road  
Combermere ON K0J 1L0  
613 756 3708  
Principal – Anne Marie Landon  
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<http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/our-schools/george-vanier/>  
Follow us on twitter @GVCS\_RCCDSB



### Vision Statement

*Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we at George Vanier Catholic School, are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.*

***Welcome to the start of a new school year full of possibilities for learning and growth. At George Vanier Catholic School we encourage you to take care of amazing you – eat nutritious food, ensure you get proper sleep, enjoy nature, exercise, stay hydrated, and spend time in prayer and reflection. Celebrate the uniqueness of each person you encounter. Each day try to “do ordinary things with extraordinary love” as spoken by St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta.***

### School Information

#### GVCS School Day Schedule

8:10am	Yard supervision starts
8:40am	Bell
8:40-10:04am	Class Time
10:04-10:19am	Recess
10:19-11:25am	Class Time
11:25-11:40pm	Recess
11:40-12:10pm	Lunch
12:10-2:40pm	Class Time
2:40-2:55pm	Recess (please let a yard supervisor know if you are picking up your child during this time)
2:55pm	Dismissal – buses leave

## 2019-2020 Staff

Principal	Ms. Anne Marie Landon
Spec. Ed. Resource Teacher	Ms. Anne Marie Landon
Secretary	Mrs. Nicole Villeneuve
Custodian	Mr. Gerard Olsheskie
French	Madame Joanna Ropego (mornings)
Kindergarten-Grade 1	Mr. Andrew Dupuis
Grades 2-4	
(and Grade 1 Science & Social Studies, Grade 5 Math)	Mrs. Lindsay Vice
Grades 5-8	Mrs. Lauren Oattes
Music & Dance	Mr. Joseph Platt (Friday afternoons)
School Counsellor	Mr. Kevin De Ruitter
School Attendance Counsellor	Ms. Cindy Giroux
Yard/Lunch Supervisors	Mrs. Monique Schweig
	Mrs. Joyce Larche

## School Notes

- **Morning yard supervision does not begin until 8:10am.** Please do not drop your child off earlier.
- If your child is going to be **absent from school** please let us know (note in agenda prior to absence or phone call morning of the absence. You can also leave a message on the school's answering machine).
- **School newsletters** go home the first week of each month. If you wish to have a second paper copy of the newsletter sent home each month for Grandparents or others please ask at the office. The newsletter is also available on our website.
- **All parents and visitors to the school must sign in and wait at the office upon entering the building.**
- **Healthy snacks** (fruits and veggies – nothing in “disguise”) are available at the hallway snack counter at no charge.
- Staff have the option of “dressing down” on Fridays as a fundraiser for local charities.
- Fire drills and drills for other **emergency measures** will take place throughout the school year. Please remind your child of the importance of practicing these drills and consider practising some of these drills at home.
- Students need to wear **running shoes** for Phys.Ed.
- Students will have an opportunity each week to sign out **library books** to read at home and school.
- No eating on the school yard or on buses.
- Please wait with your child at their bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time. It takes a few weeks to fine-tune the routes and schedules. **Bus passes** are for emergencies only (not birthday parties, regular child care, sleepovers, etc.,). Please be there to greet your child at their bus stop at the end of the day – young children without an adult waiting for them will be returned to the school by their driver.

- Students have been provided with all the necessary **school supplies** again this year. We trust that students will appreciate and respect these supplies as the year goes on.
- Please **do not send any food to share**. Several of our students have food allergies, sensitivities, or family preferences about what is eaten.
- **Our school strives to be scent free and nut free and shellfish free (eg. shrimp, crayfish, crab, lobster, clams, scallops, oysters, and mussels). Please label items that have tahini or wow butter or other nut substitutes as such as they may look like peanut products.**

## School Council

-The next School Council meeting will be on **Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm** in the school library. All are welcome to attend. At this meeting we will be looking at upcoming fundraising plans and making final decisions for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for GVCS.

## School Board Information

-Enjoy free ebooks and audiobooks on your computer, phone, tablet or iPad. Students should visit <http://rccdsb.lib.overdrive.com> and sign in with their Google apps for Education address (e.g. [jacob.smith@rccdsb.ca](mailto:jacob.smith@rccdsb.ca)). The Grade K-8 password is *Books*.

**-Monday, September 30 is Orange Shirt Day**

### The Origin of Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. This project was the vision of Esketemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Fred Robbins, who is a former student himself. It brought together former students and their families from the Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, Southern Dakelh and St'at'imc Nations along with the Cariboo Regional District, the Mayors and municipalities, School Districts and civic organizations in the Cariboo Region.

The events were designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Chief Justice Murray Sinclair challenged all of the participants to keep the reconciliation process alive, and as a result of the realization that every former student had similar stories.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of this project. As spokesperson for the Reunion group leading up to the events, former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

It all started in the Cariboo, and as a result, School District No. 27 has been chosen by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to pilot curriculum changes for all Grade 5 and Grade 10 students reflecting the residential school experience, to be implemented province-wide.

Resolutions have been passed in support of Orange Shirt Day by local governments, school districts, and First Nations in the Cariboo and beyond. Most recently the AFN Chiefs-in-Council passed a resolution declaring Orange Shirt Day “a first step in reconciliation”, and pledging to bring the message home as well as to the government of Canada and the churches responsible.

On this day of **September 30th**, we call upon humanity to listen with open ears to the stories of survivors and their families, and to remember those that didn’t make it.

Taken from: <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/origin.html>

## Transportation

- If you haven’t yet subscribed to receive email notifications for cancellations and delays or timing or bus # changes, we encourage you to do so by visiting our website and signing up for subscriptions at any time:
  - Go to our website at [www.onthebus.ca](http://www.onthebus.ca);
  - Under the “Portals” heading on the home page click on “[student/parent portal](#)”;
  - Enter Student ID (this is your child’s Ontario Education Number which can be found on your child’s most recent report card), Birth Date, School, Grade. Then select “I’m not a robot” check box;
  - Click on the “Sign In” Button;
  - Enter your E-mail address and click on the “Subscribe” button;
  - Confirm the subscription process, via the validation email that is sent to you shortly afterwards (within 3 minutes).

## Parish Information

Parish Priest: Fr. John Lacey	
Weekend Mass Times:	
Holy Canadian Martyrs, Combermere Saturdays 5pm Sundays 9am	St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge Sundays 11am

- We will be having a teaching **Mass at the school on Friday, October 4**. This Mass will focus on St. Francis of Assisi and his love of animals and nature. We will use the example of St. Francis to take care of all living things.
- Parents of students in Grade 2 (or of Grade 2 age) who wish for their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist should write a note in their child's agenda to indicate this. Preparation will begin later this fall.

## Thank You

-All of the staff at GVCS for spending time this summer preparing for the return of our students. Special thanks to Mr. Olsheskie for all of his hard work in preparing our building for the 2019-2020 school year.

-The C.O. Country Market for another donation (this time \$565!) from their used book corner sales. They in turn want to thank our fantastic community of supporters, donors, and readers. This money will be used for student activities throughout the year and for supplies for our new Maker Space (check it out at Open House!)

## Community Information

-**Prenatal:** CRC strives to be a fun and relaxed place for expecting parents to meet new friends, share experiences, discuss healthy eating and enjoy good food. In Barry's Bay we meet Tuesday mornings at St. John Bosco School. The Killaloe group meets Wednesdays at the Community Resource Centre. Our groups offer grocery gift certificates, prenatal vitamins, connections to new friends and service providers. Partners/support persons are welcome as well as older children. Please contact San at the Community Resource Centre 613 757 3108 for more information and to register.

-Tim Baklinski is offering music lessons during classroom hours to all grades. If you are interested in starting your child on a musical instrument or wish to continue with lessons from the previous year, please contact him at 613 281 0854 or by email at [baklinskimusic@gmail.com](mailto:baklinskimusic@gmail.com) for further information, including cost. This year Tim will be at GVCS on Friday mornings.

-Sign ups for Karate is at 5:30pm on September the 10th at the Combermere Community Center. Children 7-15 Cost is \$80 and goes until mid December every Tuesday from 6-7.

-Barry's Bay & Area Skating Club Registration Night September 11, 2019 at Paul J. Yakabuskie Community Centre in Barry's Bay from 5:30 till 7:00. All are welcome. Please check out our facebook page for information and updates.

## Did You Know?

-George Vanier Catholic School celebrates **50 years** of educating students from Combermere and area in 2019. Please share with Ms. Landon any ideas you have for when and how we can recognize and celebrate this milestone. Ideas so far include a Mass, digging up a time capsule buried on June 2, 1994 by Mr. Bates and his students, burying a new time capsule from our current students, a 50's themed family dance, a picnic for all, a mural in the school. We are tentatively thinking of celebrating in October. Plans will be finalized at the Sept.9 School Council meeting.

## Looking Ahead...

Wednesday, October 2	Bus Safety presentations K-3 @ 9am, Grades 4-8 @ 10:25am, bus evacuation drill for all students at 9:30am
Thursday, October 10	Grade 7 immunizations
Friday, October 11	PA day "Focus on Fundamental Math and Closing Gaps in Student Achievement"
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving
Friday, October 25	Picture Day (morning)
Friday, November 15	PA day "Reporting to Parents on Student Progress"
Wednesday, December 4	Christmas Concert 6:30pm (afternoon performance at 12:30pm as well)
Thursday, December 5	Christmas Concert back up day in case of bad weather
Friday, December 20	Last day of school before Christmas holidays
Monday, January 6	Back to school
Friday, January 31	PA day "Reporting"
Monday, February 17	Family Day Holiday
Friday, March 13	Last day of school before March Break
Monday, March 23	Back to school
Friday, April 10	Good Friday
Monday, April 13	Easter Monday
Sunday, May 3	Catholic Education Week starts, 2020 theme: "Igniting Hope"
Friday, May 15	PA day "Christian Community Day"
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day holiday
Tuesday, May 19	EQAO starts
Friday, May 29	EQAO ends
Friday, June 5	PA day "Reporting"
Thursday, June 25	Last day of school for students
Friday, June 26	PA day "Closing the Gaps in Student Achievement and Literacy"

## Perhaps...

-Your family would like a copy of the Traditional Catholic Prayers booklet compiled by the RCCDSB. Write a note in your child's agenda and a copy will be sent for you to keep and use at home.

## Action Items for Our Families

-Please register for **School Cash On Line**. For safety and efficiency reasons the RCCDSB would like to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into schools and the amount of class time being spent collecting money. It takes less than 5 minutes to register at

<https://renfrewcatholic.schoolcashionline.com> Please contact Ms. Landon or Mrs. Villeneuve for more information. **This year GVCS will only be accepting cheques or School Cash on line** for most purchases.

-Please complete and return the School Emergency and Information Form attached to the newsletter and keep us informed throughout the school year if your contact information, address, workplace, etc., changes. Are there any changes to any medical information for your children? If so, please let the Principal know.

-Please **read and discuss with your child the Code of Behaviour** found at the front of each agenda and **sign it together**.

-Parents of students in Grade 2 (or of Grade 2 age) who wish for their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist at Holy Canadian Martyrs or St. Francis de Sales Parish should write a note in their child's agenda to indicate this.

-Try to attend our Open House on Tuesday, September 17 from 5-6pm. You will be able to see your child's classrooms and meet their teachers.

-Please note that every person who is involved with the school as a volunteer is required to have a Criminal Background/**Vulnerable Screening Check** completed and on file with the school. Those who have already done so will be required to sign an "Offence Declaration for Volunteers" for the 2019-2020 school year. These will be sent home next week. Anyone who has not completed a check and is interested in volunteering (including chaperoning on class trips in the spring) should contact the office to obtain the necessary forms to be taken to a local OPP station. This process takes time.

*Thank you for your attention to these items. Together we're better!*

## Attachments

September 2019 GVCS calendar	Emergency and Information form	Optional student insurance info.
2019-2020 School Year calendar		

## Family Activity of the Month

You will need 2 number cubes (dice) to do this activity. Person one rolls the two cubes. They can add or subtract the numbers. They should cross off the answer on their "0-10" strip of paper. Now it is the other person's turn. They do the same. Who will cross out all of their numbers first? Try playing with the whole family.

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